

Washington State Patrol Media Release

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*****For Immediate Release*****

Date: May 23, 2006
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“Knife Brandishing Man Arrested On New Narrows Bridge”

A 29-year-old Tacoma man was arrested on the new Tacoma Narrows Bridge, after brandishing a knife at construction crew.

The May 22nd incident started at approximately 5:00 p.m. when the State Patrol received 911 calls, from the Tacoma man advising dispatchers of his intent to jump from the Narrows Bridge. Troopers in the area were advised of the calls and checked the area for pedestrians and parked or disabled vehicles.

At 5:25 p.m. the State Patrol received a call of a possibly intoxicated man, carrying a knife, walking up the catwalk on the west end of the new bridge. Troopers and Tacoma Police Officers responded to the call. A Trooper and two TPD officers went up the work elevators to the top of the west tower, while another Trooper walked up the catwalk. Workers were advised not to approach the man. As the man reached the top of the tower, he was pinned down by several steel workers and was taken into custody without further incident.

29-year-old Michael K. Durnil of Tacoma told the arresting Trooper that he was homeless and living out of his car. Durnil also stated he had reached rock bottom and was unable to cope with his alcohol and drug addiction any more. A check with DOL computer records showed Durnil to have a \$10,000.00 misdemeanor warrant out of Tacoma for Assault 4th degree. Durnil was transported and involuntarily committed into Puget Sound Hospital for evaluation.

Durnil will be booked into Pierce County Jail for his warrant following his time at Puget Sound Hospital. It has not been determined if Durnil will face additional criminal charges stemming from this incident.